

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
December 10, 2014**

7:00 P.M.

*2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186*

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman, Ed Moore, Vice-Chairman, Adrienne Garreau, Tony Tedeschi, and Mark Nesbit

Members Absent: Matthew Sheedy, R. Holder Trumbo, Jr., and Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Ben Davison, Roy Tate, and Nathan Umberger, Virginia Department of Transportation
Lieutenant Ray Acors, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
Julie Bolthouse, Piedmont Environmental Council
Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Committee

Staff Present: Holly Meade, Andrew Hopewell, Marie Scheetz, Ben Holt, and Maureen Williamson

1. Approval of September 24, 2014 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On a motion made by Adrienne Garreau and seconded by Ed Moore, it was moved to approve the September 24, 2014 Committee meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

2. October, November, and December 2014 – VDOT Monthly Reports

Mr. Nesbit reported that the Route 688 bridge replacement over Thumb Run is on schedule. Advertisement is scheduled for December 2014. He also reported that Sumerduck Bridge is proceeding slightly ahead of schedule.

The Committee inquired about the Waterloo Bridge rehabilitation. Mr. Nesbit reported that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is reviewing the engineering study that Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and the Counties had completed as well as an independent engineering study performed by a consultant on behalf of VDOT. Once review is complete, VDOT will share its findings with County staff. Ms. Scheetz reported that the County Administrator, Paul McCulla, is in receipt of the joint PEC/County engineering study and he said that it will be shared with this Committee once the County has an opportunity to review both reports with VDOT.

Mr. Eltringham asked about maintenance activities in the crossovers between Riley Road and Route 29.

ACTION: Ms. Scheetz to provide Mr. Eltringham with the staff plan for this development.

Roy Tate, Assistant Warrenton Residency Administrator, discussed a citizen request to add stop bars at the intersection of Kennedy Road and Aiken Drive (specifically to add stop bars to Aiken Drive). He noted that it was determined during the review that motorists were stopping at the intersection and no stop bars are needed. However, it was discussed that the review recommended that consideration be given to making the east leg of Aiken Drive a stop condition. VDOT reports that this leg of Aiken Drive is not a state maintained road.

Mr. Moore commented that he believes all four legs of the intersection are privately owned. He reported that since VDOT's review of the intersection, Kennedy Road has been redesigned and is now a two-way stop. He also noted that there is an approved plan for major improvements to Kennedy Road and the whole intersection, within the next eighteen plus months, will be changed considerably.

ACTION: Mr. Nesbit noted that if VDOT receives other citizens' requests involving this intersection, he will coordinate them with Mr. Moore.

Citizen's Time

- **Mountjoy Road – Joseph Guite, Jr.**

Mountjoy Road (Route 720) is located between Free State Road (Route 721) and Crest Hill Road (Route 647) via Elihu Hill Road (Route 722). A portion of Mountjoy Road is in the state system. Mr. Joseph Guite, Jr. has sought assistance from this Committee to have the entire length of Mountjoy Road taken into the state system for maintenance and a turnaround provided for "lost" large vehicles.

To assist Mr. Guite with his request, Ms. Scheetz reported that County staff has researched the deeds, agreements, maps and plats that Fauquier County has on record for the portion of the road in question. Mr. Guite, citing a letter received from County staff related to his request, asked how the county determined that Mountjoy Road was only eight tenths of a mile long when the Byrd Act went into effect in 1932. Ms. Scheetz responded by saying that there is a map on file in the Fauquier County Record Room that shows what roads were taken into the state system as a result of the Byrd Act in 1932. Ms. Scheetz continued by saying that the map on file shows Mountjoy Road being eight tenths of a mile long when the Byrd Act went into effect.

Ms. Scheetz stated that County Chief of Planning, Holly Meade, and County Attorney, Kevin Burke, have been briefed on this issue and it has been determined that the County has no legal jurisdiction over the road. She added that in a private subdivision such as this, the residents of the subdivision are responsible for maintaining the road. She continued to say that if the residents want the road maintained by VDOT, the residents would have to bring the road up to state standards and then request that the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (BOS) pass a resolution to add it to the state system.

Mr. Eltringham reiterated that the Chief of Planning and County Counsel have been fully briefed on this issue and have come to a decision and they recommend citizens seek assistance from an attorney as the County has no legal jurisdiction over the private road. He asked that the minutes reflect that this citizen request was discussed and the Committee recognized the citizens continued concerns. He continued to say that the Committee advises the BOS that the Transportation Committee and County staff have not been able to resolve this to the satisfaction of the citizens that live on this road.

Mr. Vasco Jones and Ms. Ellen Mitchell asked Lieutenant Ray Acors, of the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, how to enforce no trespassing on their private roads. Lieutenant Acors explained that trespassing is difficult to enforce as all residents must be in agreement that an individual is trespassing. Ms. Mitchell, who has posted a no trespassing sign in her driveway and continues to experience trespassers, asked Lieutenant Acors how to address trespassing in this situation. He said that as deputies, if they are unable to determine property lines, which is often the case, they will refer the citizen to a magistrate and the deputy will assist with the process.

Ms. Bolthouse, of PEC, would like to encourage VDOT to respond to the Waterloo Bridge engineering studies as the anniversary of the bridge closing is January 15, 2015. Ms. Bolthouse noted that the longer the bridge is closed the more deterioration and the less valid each engineering study will be. Once VDOT analysis is reviewed with the County, this Committee will receive a copy.

3. *Old Business*

- ***Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan***

Mr. Hopewell brought to the Committee an outline of the major sections and content of the Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Chapter. He explained that the outline shows what work will be underway each month for the next ten months and when staff plans to present information to this Committee. Mr. Hopewell noted that this is a fairly aggressive timeline to complete, but it allows staff to meet their goal to have the completed chapter to VDOT for review by October 2015. This then will allow staff to address VDOT's comments and present the final draft to the Planning Commission and the BOS in early 2016.

Mr. Hopewell noted that per state code, the Planning Commission is deemed the author of the Comprehensive Plan and currently their priority is in crafting Chapter 1 into a Vision Chapter, which will set the tone for the entire Comprehensive Plan. He continued by saying that the Planning Commission has not been briefed on the Transportation Chapter and it is not yet known if they will choose to author the Transportation Chapter themselves or delegate the responsibility to the Transportation Committee.

Ms. Garreau asked about protocols for having the Planning Commission designate the Transportation Committee responsible for the drafting of the Transportation Chapter. Mr. Hopewell suggests bringing this question before the Planning Commission during a work session to ask for its recommendation.

Mr. Eltringham requested Mr. Hopewell provide a high level overview of the Comprehensive Plan revision process. Mr. Hopewell said the Planning Commission has started the process by working to transform the current Chapter 1, which is a history of the Comprehensive Plan, into a vision statement chapter. He said that the service district plans have their own vision statements, but there is not one for the plan itself. He noted that staff is working with the Planning Commission to develop the vision statement for the plan for the entire county. He continued by saying that stemming off the vision statement are going to be a number of guiding principles and these will be broad level policy statements that will help to provide direction for future development of the County. He said that underneath the guiding principles, general policies will be addressed. He noted that it is important to undertake Chapter 1 first as each chapter including the Transportation Chapter, will link back to the County vision.

The Transportation goals, extracted from existing language of the Transportation Chapter were discussed. Mr. Eltringham asked for member comments. Ms. Garreau noted that the goals should articulate public transportation. She feels the Committee should articulate a plan or a willingness to support a public transportation aspect within the goals.

Mr. Tedeschi noticed the absence of the word “safety” in the goals. He suggesting adding the word “safe” to Goal 1 and amend the end of the sentence to read...“to provide a ‘safe’ and efficient transportation network.”

Mr. Tedeschi asked if the County’s Thoroughfare Plan listed in Goal 3 is an existing document. Ms. Scheetz responded by saying that it is a planned document that will be an inventory of current roads and will identify the needed twenty-year improvements in order to maintain the county’s level of service.

Mr. Eltringham asked VDOT for comments related to the goals. Mr. Nesbit suggested being as thorough as possible when identifying projects and needs. He referenced a recent conversation with Ms. Scheetz related to a County transportation model to help identify projects. VDOT noted that a transportation model is a starting point for identifying capacity, safety, and level of service issues. Mr. Eltringham asked that it be noted in the minutes that the County has had a transportation model and the County had to maintain its own database.

Mr. Hopewell reported that the County did have a model developed and staff is working to get Ms. Scheetz access to use its capabilities on an ongoing basis.

After a brief discussion on the goals, the Committee agreed that the following points and language should be within the goals of the Transportation Chapter:

- A need for safety language in the goals.
- Overall transportation to enable development and growth in our service districts while preserving our way of life.
- Ensure public transportation is articulated in the goals.
- Development of a county transportation model.
- Most desired lexicon.

4. *Staff Updates*

- **Hopewell Road**

Ms. Scheetz reported that Route 15 in Prince William County currently has a restriction on it prohibiting trucks in excess of sixty-five feet in length from using this road. She continued by saying that this restriction would need to be lifted to provide an alternate truck route using Route 15 and facilitate the through truck restriction on Hopewell Road. She reported that the Gainesville District Supervisor in Prince William County does not support lifting the existing truck restriction on Route 15 and therefore will not support the through truck restriction on Hopewell/Waterfall Road (Route 601). She reported that Supervisor Holder Trumbo is aware of the situation.

Mr. Nesbit reports VDOT recently lowered the speed limit from 55 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour and has made signage improvements for safety.

- **Rogues Road and Academic Avenue (Kettle Run High School)**

Ms. Scheetz discussed a memo from VDOT regarding the signal operations at the entrance of Kettle Run High School at Rogues Road. VDOT does have recommendations for changes and Nathan Umberger, VDOT Area Traffic Engineer, spoke about the study done for purposes of improving the traffic flow and safety. Mr. Umberger reported that VDOT supports the extension of the right turn lane, improvement of the radius, and installation of a right turn overlap as soon as funding and scheduling may allow. Ms. Scheetz reports that staff is working with VDOT related to funding and timing for this project and will advise the Committee of its findings.

ACTION: Staff is to continue working with VDOT on funding and timing for this project.

- **Opal Interchange Signage**

Ms. Scheetz reported that VDOT is waiting to receive additional signage to be added to the overhead signs for the William S. Shacklette Bypass to clarify that the exit is on the right side of the road.

- **Tapps Ford Road**

Ms. Scheetz noted that in October 2014, a public meeting was held with the residents of Tapps Ford Road. Twenty five residents attended the meeting and about twenty-seven residents responded to the survey. Staff reports that two thirds of residents who responded do not want their road paved. Staff will continue to work with Supervisor Peter Schwartz to determine how the BOS will respond to this.

- **Transportation Planning Board**

Ms. Scheetz reported that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has asked localities to submit projects to the 2015 update to the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). She noted that they created the CLRP, TIP, and Conformity database to begin updating the existing projects and entering information for new projects. She noted the deadline for project submission is December 12, 2014. The Technical Review Committee will review the project submissions at their meeting on January 9, 2015 and it will be released for public comment on January 15, 2015.

She reminded the Committee that seven projects will be included in the CLRP and TIP and provided a map showing each project's location. She said the County and VDOT are working together to submit the listing of projects in the urbanized areas.

- **Route 17 (Marshall to Warrenton) Traffic Calming – Scott Filling Request**

A report prepared by VDOT was forwarded to Mr. Filling related to his requests for traffic calming measures on Route 17 (Marshall to Warrenton).

***ACTION:** Ms. Scheetz was asked to email the report to Mr. Eltringham.*

- **VDOT Revenue Sharing Application
Vint Hill Public Street Network**

Ms. Scheetz reported that the County submitted one VDOT Revenue Sharing application. The application would help fund the construction of the proposed public road network in Vint Hill between Aiken Drive and the future extension of Vint Hill Parkway. The application was submitted at the end of October 2014. Ms. Scheetz noted that the County should hear a decision in spring or early summer 2015.

Mr. Eltringham inquired if what we have asked for is consistent with the last known draft of the New Baltimore Service District Plan and when the Transportation Committee will see the New Baltimore Service District Plan. Mr. Hopewell feels it will be brought to this Committee in January 2015.

- **October 9th CTB Public Hearing/Six-Year Improvement Program**

Staff requests for additional funding for the preliminary engineering phase of the interchange at Route 15/17/29 and Business Route 15/17/29 were made at the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Public Hearing on Thursday, October 9, 2014. The CTB voted on the Revised Final SYIP at its November meeting and released the FY 2015-2020 Revised Final Six-Year Improvement Program on November 12, 2014. The revised plan continues to indicate that no future funding will be allocated to this project for FY 2015-2020. However, as previously discussed, this project will undergo the prioritization process in 2016 and may continue to receive funding if selected based on its performance.

Mr. Eltringham asked staff what resolutions need to be drafted for January 2015 for projects in the six-year plan.

ACTION: Ms. Scheetz to develop the resolutions for presentation at the next meeting of this Committee.

5. Member Comments

Patrick Mauney of the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Committee cautioned that, due to the House Bill 2, it would be 2017 before any new funding would go into the interchange at Route 15/17/29 and Business Route 15/17/29 project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 28, 2015.**